UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/110
27 February 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Forty-seventh session
Items 35 and 69 of the preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 26 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a statement of the Presidency of the European Community on the Middle East, issued at Lisbon on 17 February 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under items 35 and 69 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on the Middle East process

The Community and its member States are following closely the developments in the Middle East peace process in both its bilateral and multilateral tracks.

The achievement of lasting peace in the region is of vital importance for Europe. This is why the Community and its member States are fully committed to playing a consistent role in this process, bearing in mind that the Middle East is a neighbouring region, with which Europe has long-standing political, historical, cultural, economic and commercial ties, whose stability and security are essential to Europe's own stability and security.

The Community and its member States have maintained regular contacts with the parties to the bilateral negotiations as well as with the co-sponsors and other participants. The Community and its member States will not spare any efforts to provide their good offices if requested by the parties involved themselves.

The inception of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process in Moscow has the potential to reinforce the bilateral talks. It is in itself a concrete confidence-building measure, enabling peace to become a reality and genuine regional cooperation to develop. However, substantive progress in the multilaterals can only be attained if the central issues of the bilaterals also register some progress.

The Community and its member States reiterate their commitment to play a constructive and active role in the multilateral negotiations. To this end, some obstacles should be overcome. First of all, the presence of all the parties directly involved is essential in the next phases of the multilateral process. Secondly, a formula allowing for a broader Palestinian participation should be sought. Thirdly, the United Nations and their specialized agencies should participate and contribute to the building up of regional cooperation. Fourthly, the Community and its member States should participate, preferably as co-organizer, in all working groups established for the multilateral negotiations. They believe it is necessary to be fully engaged in working groups of a clearly political nature, such as "Arms Control and Regional Security", besides their full involvement in working groups of an economic nature.

The Community and its member States strongly urge all parties to commit themselves to the peace process and to refrain from taking any action which would endanger the negotiations or undermine the establishment of a climate of confidence, including the pursuit of the current settlement policy. Furthermore, the Community and its member States condemn the perpetration of acts of violence, whatever their origin.